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PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 046601-5019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Shin KONDO et al.

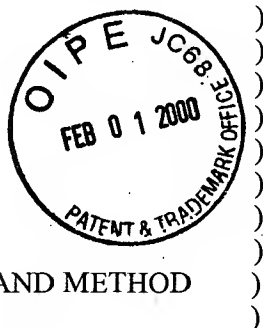
Application No.: 09/377,908

Filed: August 20, 1999

For: IMAGE READING DEVICE AND METHOD
OF THE SAME

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:



Group Art Unit: 2852

Examiner: Unassigned

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language document.

1. Unexamined Japanese Patent Publication No. 9-27910 discloses a document image reading device that solves a problem of inappropriately reading dust as a vertical line. The device has a carrier that carries documents, plural image readers that read images of the documents carried by the carrier, and a detector that detects, based on signals output from the image readers, noise caused by the dust on the documents.

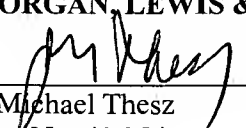
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed document do not constitutes "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP



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Dated: February 1, 2000
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